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Title:

Comments: I object to Northern Region Regional Forester Leanne M.Marten's decision to not list American bison as a species of conservation concern.

The best available scientific information indicates that Americans should have substantial concerns about the American bison's capability to persist over the long-term in the plan area.

In addition, the public comment record demonstrates a broad section of Tribes, groups, businesses, and individuals from around the country requested and submitted evidence in support of listing American bison as a species of conservation concern.

As such, the Custer Gallatin National Forest must "[p]rovide the ecological conditions necessary to maintain a viable population. . . within the planning area."

You are dodging -- if not breaking -- the law.

As a 44-year resident of Montana and a person who hikes, fishes, hunts, and otherwise enjoys our national forests, I believe you must work to restore the American bison in its original habitat. I want to see them. I want to apply for hunting permits to hunt them on the Custer Gallatin, and, to do that, you must follow the law to encourage their well being.

The Custer Gallatin is host to the one percent of breeding range remaining for the only intact and wild American bison population in the state of Montana. This breeding range in Montana is critical to perpetuate self-sustaining populations of the migratory species in the wild.

Regional Forester Marten's decision must be reversed, and her assessment and presentation of the best available scientific information for listing American bison as a species of conservation concern publicly disclosed.